

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 01793 252058Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 DHA-02 AID-05 FEA-01 EB-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00
STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 AGR-01 COME-00 FRB-03 INT-05
ERDA-05 FPC-01 /098 W
-----089059 252106Z /70

P R 252030Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 861
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1793

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), EFIN, EINV, EAID, ENRG, TD, US, XL
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT LEAVES STRONGLY POSITIVE IMPACT

SUMMARY: THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO
TRINIDAD WAS BROADENED AND STRENGTHENED THIS WEEK THROUGH
A MAJOR REPORT BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE CABINET ON THURSDAY
AND A SOMEWHAT MORE SANITIZED YET INFORMATIVE REPORT TO
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FRIDAY BY ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
PADMORE. CABINET MINISTERS HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED THEIR
WARM SATISFACTION AT THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT, WHICH HAS
CLEARLY STRENGTHENED SIGNIFICANTLY OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DIALOGUE FOR SOME TIME TO COME. END
SUMMARY

END CONFIDENTIAL

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 01793 252058Z

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER OVERAND PADMORE PRESENTED A REPORT ON
THE DISCUSSIONS HELD LAST WEEK BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND PRIME
MINISTER WILLIAMS TO THE JUNE 24 MEETING OF THE T&T HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES. PADMORE REPORTED THAT "USEFUL EXCHANGES" HAD
TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE PRIME MINISTER
CONCERNING THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF CARICOM COUNTRIES,

PARTICULARLY THOSE THAT HAVE APPROACHED TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FOR BILATERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HE SAID THAT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF T&T ASSISTANCE TO THESE COUNTRIES WAS REVIEWED AT THE MEETING; BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THAT ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS AND THAT A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THOSE PROBLEMS WAS NEEDED.

2. PADMORE STATED THAT PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS, ACTING WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER MANLEY, HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF ESTABLISHING A CONSORTIUM OF COUNTRIES TO COPE WITH JAMAICA'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. THE GOTT INITIATIVE WAS LIMITED TO JAMAICA, PADMORE SAID, BECAUSE NO OTHER COUNTRY HAD AUTHORIZED TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO ACT ON ITS BEHALF.

3. PADMORE ALSO STATED THAT THE US DELEGATION WAS ADVISED THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S PROVEN AND PROBABLE RESERVES OF NATURAL GAS WERE NOW MORE THAN ADEQUATE TO MEET THE COUNTRY'S PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INDUSTRY AS WELL SUPPLY ONE LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) PROJECT. IN VIEW OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, HE SAID, THE GOTT HAD AGREED TO REOPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN LNG PROJECT IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. THE COST AND SIZE OF THE PROJECT AS WELL AS MARKETING PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE US DELEGATION. HE SAID THAT THE GOTT INFORMED THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT O 01793 252058Z

US DELEGATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS A NATURAL MARKET FOR T&T PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AS WELL AS OTHER PRODUCTS FROM ENERGY-BASED INDUSTRIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER OF CAPITAL TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS INDUSTRY. ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER'S REPORT, PROPOSALS WERE ADVANCED BY THE GOTT FOR FURTHER BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO EXPLORE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RAISING CAPITAL IN THE UNITED STATES AS WELL AS ACCESS TO US MARKETS FOR T&T EXPORTS, TRADITIONAL AS WELL AS NEW PRODUCTS..

4. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING, ACCORDING TO PADMORE, WERE UNRESOLVED REGIONAL MATTERS SUCH AS THE AIR TRANSPORT PROBLEM AND THE BELIZE DISPUTE. HE SAID THAT SECRETARY VANCE REVIEWED CURRENT US POLICIES CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA.

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5. IN VIEW OF PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' EARLIER REQUEST THAT THE TRINIDADIAN OVERTURE FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF LNG MATTERS BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, IT IS MILDLY INTERESTING THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS NOW BEEN ANNOUNCED. WE STILL HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING THESE PROPOSED CONSULATIONS.

6. IN ADDITION TO PADMORE'S REPORT TO PARLIAMENT, WILLIAMS PERSONALLY REPORTED TO THE CABINET ON THURSDAY (JUN 23) IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL. DURING A DINNER WITH PRESIDENT CLARKE LAST EVENING, TWO SENIOR MINISTERS (ERROL MAHABIR -- FINANCE, AND SELWYN RICHARDSON -- ATTORNEY GENERAL) INFORMED ME AT SOME LENGTH OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACCOUNT (WHICH APPEARED ACCURATE),
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 PORT O 01793 252058Z

AND OF THE WARM RESPONSE OF THE ENTIRE CABINET TO THE REPORT OF THE DIALOGUE WITH THE SECRETARY. THUS, THE IMPORTANT FIGURES IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOW BEEN PROVIDED A HIGHLY POSITIVE AND UPBEAT CONCLUSION REGARDING THIS SIGNIFICANT MEETING, CERTAINLY A POSITIVE FACTOR OF IMPORTANCE FOR SOME TIME TO COME IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

7. WE HAVE DETECTED NO NEGATIVE OVERTONES FROM ANY ASPECT OF THE VISIT AND OUR ACCOLADE GOES TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO A HIGHLY FELICITOUS VISIT.
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TAGS: OVIP, EFIN, EINV, EAID, ENRG, TD, US, XL, (VANCE, CYRUS)
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